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# Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families Newsletter

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*The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF) serves the mission of the Governor by fostering and enhancing collaborative relationships across state systems and communities in an effort to ensure the well being of Arizona's children and families.*

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## Message from the Director *By Lisa Glow*

### Public/Private Partnerships Are Important To The Work Of The GOCYF

Public/private partnerships and collaboration are an important part of the day-to-day work of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF). The Governor has spoken strongly in favor of formation of such partnerships, not only to maximize our collective resources, but to find ways to use partnerships to capture more competitive federal grants for Arizona, and to deliver better services to Arizonans.

Over the last year, we have actively sought to partner with the private sector on a number of major initiatives. For example, the GOCYF was awarded a grant from The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, The BHHS Legacy Foundation, and St. Luke's Health Initiative to establish the BenefitsCheckUp program. The State's commitment is to bring the program to Arizona and to develop a sustainability plan and strategies for ensuring the longevity of the program. To achieve this, a new office focused on aging issues has been created within GOCYF.

Other partnerships within the GOCYF include: helping raise money for community programs; raising public awareness about important benefits and programs for low-income families; involving state employees in initiatives such as mentoring and school supply drives; and convening a regular foundation roundtable discussion with the Governor.

The Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Program is perhaps one of the best examples of an effective public/private partnership between the State, The Arizona Republic Charities, and multiple private funders. This partnership has been in existence since 1999 and helps to raise money for primary child abuse prevention.

There are many more examples of public/private partnerships that are happening in the State—too many to list in this newsletter. So, in the near future, please look for updates and know that we are committed to collaboration and partnering to better serve Arizona citizens.

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- Child Abuse Prevention Month

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 16-18 | National Youth Service Days                |
| 18-24 | National Volunteer Week                    |
| 18-24 | National Victim's Rights Week              |
| 18-24 | Week of the Young Child                    |
| 20    | Sexual Assault Awareness Day               |
| 30    | Governor's Youth Summit (Northern Arizona) |

### MAY

- Older Americans Month
  - Mental Health Month
  - National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
- |       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 9-15  | Women's Health Week            |
| 10    | National Women's Check-Up Day  |
| 11-13 | Governor's Conference on Aging |

## Employee Profile

Keely Varvel Hartsell joined the GOCYF as Deputy Director in January of 2003.

Keely staffs the Governor's Inter-agency Council on Homelessness, whose goal is the development of a State Plan to End Homelessness. She assists with various GOCYF projects, especially those related to Homeland Security, social service delivery integration efforts and state and federal legislative/political issues. Keely also staffs the development of the Governor's statewide "211" system, whereby Arizonans can access a wealth of health and human services information and referrals, along with a disaster information network, simply by dialing "211".

**State School Readiness Board  
Director, Irene Jacobs**

***"Arizona must be more than a great state to grow old in. It must also be a great state to grow up in." Governor Janet Napolitano***

Governor Napolitano has outlined a 5-year School Readiness Action Plan to ensure all children in Arizona begin first grade safe, healthy and ready to succeed by building a high quality, early childhood education system that supports the learning and development of Arizona's youngest children.

In February 2004, the School Readiness Board began implementing the Governor's Plan. Implementation Planning teams will focus on inter-agency coordination, health screening and consultation, professional development, developing a quality rating system, community outreach and fund development.

For more information, contact Irene Jacobs at [ijacobs@az.gov](mailto:ijacobs@az.gov).

**Division for Community & Youth Development  
Director, Byron Garrett**

**Governor's Mentoring Initiative  
"One Hour a Week...  
One Life Changed Forever"**

On January 15th, Governor Janet Napolitano announced the Governor's Mentoring Initiative, which encourages state employees to mentor school-aged youth in their communities. The Governor also signed an Executive Order allowing state employees one hour of flex time per week to use for the purpose of mentoring. With over 62,000 state employees, this initiative stands poised to have a great impact on youth in Arizona. The Governor has also asked private businesses to provide their employees with opportunities to serve as mentors.

If you have a desire to be a positive role model in your community, contact Erin Hart at [ehart@az.gov](mailto:ehart@az.gov) for more information.

**Division for Women  
Director, Mary Thomson**

The GOCYF Division for Women is currently working on the State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence, which will be presented by Governor Napolitano at the next meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women in June 2004. The Plan is the result of eight months of work by over one hundred and fifty commissioners and community members.

***Governor Napolitano Walks To End Domestic Violence (2003)***



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at Wesley Bolin Place. The 5K walk/run to help benefit local domestic violence programs raised over \$130,000 last year - the largest ever-1st time fundraiser of it's kind.

You can register on your own for the event or get a group or your organization to register. Go to [www.dvwalk.azcentral.com](http://www.dvwalk.azcentral.com) to find out more.

The Governor will have her team again this year. "Team Governor" is open to all State of Arizona Employees and their families. Call the Governor's Division for Women to find out more at (602) 542-1773. Last year the Governor's team had over 200 walkers/runners and helped raise over \$8,000!

**Division for Children  
Director, Karen Abman**

Representatives from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention conducted a site visit in February to review Arizona's JJDP and JAG programs. They met with Division for Children staff and praised the office-wide policies governing OJJDP funds. The visit was a great success, as well as an opportunity to highlight effective community collaborations and the work being done in Arizona through the financial support of federal juvenile justice funds.

**Division for Substance Abuse Policy  
Director, Rob Evans**

**Advisory Task Force on Improving Long-Term Outcomes for Incarcerated Women and Their Children.**

The Governor has asked Dora Schriro, Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections (DOC) to chair an Advisory Task Force on Improving Outcomes for Incarcerated Women and Their Children. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Governor and DOC Director on designing and delivering correctional services for incarcerated women to reduce relapse, revocation and recidivism. Primary focus areas include: offender management, pre-release preparation (including family strengthening and parenting skills), education/job skills development, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and physical and mental health issues including those resulting from domestic violence or sexual abuse.

The first meeting was held in February at the Perryville Prison Complex.

For more information, contact Allison Blanchard at [ablanchard@az.gov](mailto:ablanchard@az.gov).



**Policy Advisor on Aging,  
Fred Karnas**

The Office of the Policy Advisor on Aging is involved in providing guidance on aging issues to the Governor and has the responsibility of implementing the BenefitsCheckUp program in Maricopa and Mohave Counties. With sites opening this spring, BenefitsCheckUp will engage volunteers and professionals to assist eligible seniors through the process of obtaining benefits.

Created by the National Council on the Aging, BenefitsCheckUp provides a web-based service to persons 55+ years of age and the agencies that serve them. The site can be easily navigated to find information and program applications, and to determine eligibility for an array of public and private benefits.

Contact Fred Karnas at  
[fkarnas@az.gov](mailto:fkarnas@az.gov) for more info.

**Advisor to the Governor for  
Victims, Dan Levey**

**Victim's Rights Week 2004  
(April 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>)**

Crime victims and survivors, service providers, criminal and juvenile justice, professionals, and community volunteers will commemorate the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's theme, "Victims' Rights: America's Values." helps us recognize that when we value equal rights, safety and protection for victims, and justice for all, we value crime victims' rights and services.

An event will be held on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Wesley Bolin Plaza to honor crime victims, followed by a candle light vigil at the state capitol. Resource booths from victims service agencies, music, entertainment, food, and displays by the fire department and law enforcement will be featured.

For further information, contact Dan Levey, Governor's Advisor for Victims, at [dlevey@az.gov](mailto:dlevey@az.gov).

**Community Relations  
Director, Terri Wogan**

**Child Abuse Prevention  
License Plate Program**

The goal of this program is to raise funds for child abuse prevention statewide. Of each \$25 purchase, \$17 plus a 50 cent per dollar match from Arizona Republic Charities and its funding partners, goes directly to primary prevention efforts. In cooperation with the program, during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, all Earnhardt Auto Dealerships will include this specialty plate free of charge with the purchase of a new car. The Earnhardt Auto Dealers are the first Arizona automobile dealer to make the purchase of the license plate available through their dealerships.



To purchase this plate, visit  
[www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com)

**Upcoming Grant  
Opportunities:**

National Service Forest Health Planning Grants #AC-VSG-04-5031  
Release Date: March 1, 2004  
Application Deadline: April 9, 2004  
[http://www.governor.state.az.us/cyf/grant\\_req\\_info/grant\\_req.html](http://www.governor.state.az.us/cyf/grant_req_info/grant_req.html).

The 2004 National Service Forest Health Planning Grant will support agencies working in the field of **forest health and fire mitigation** and that have an eventual goal of developing or expanding a National Service program.

Priority for the Planning Grant will be given to any organization that is 1) located within five miles of one of Arizona's six National Forests (Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, Prescott, Tonto) or Tribal Forests or 2) considered an "at-risk community" for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire disturbance event as defined by Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

**Commission & Board Activities:**

The **Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission** will meet on March 25, 2004.

The **Commission on Service and Volunteerism** is pleased to announce receiving 2004-2005 AmeriCorps formula funding totaling \$1,721,797, a 44% increase over last year's funding. In addition the Commission will soon be announcing \$60,000 for Forest Health and Fire Mitigation grants. The Commission will meet in Sierra Vista on April 16, 2004.

The **Governor's Youth Commission** decided to "Go M.A.D. - Make a Difference"! On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Governor's Youth Commission hosted its Governor's Youth Summit (Southern Region) in Tucson. Almost two hundred Southern Arizona youth gathered to engage in volunteer activities creating an immediate impact on the lives of local residents. A Northern Region summit is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup> in Prescott at Yavapai College, focusing on improving youth awareness and civic responsibility.

Contact Ken Aiello at  
[kaiello@az.gov](mailto:kaiello@az.gov) for more details.

The **Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women** will meet on June 3, 2004.

The **Governor's Commission on the Health Status of Women** will meet on April 8, 2004.

The **Arizona Drug and Gang Policy Council** will meet on April 28, 2004

The **Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention** has completed its distribution of funds for this year, choosing to fund programs that have proven to be effective and giving attention to the needs of children of incarcerated parents, especially mothers who will leave prison to return to their children. In addition, the Commissioners are funding an evidence-based program to help reduce bullying in schools across Arizona. This is being done in Partnership with the Men's Anti-violence Network and the Arizona Prevention Resource Center. The Commission will meet on March 18, 2004.